

FORT STEVENS

DRAWER 13

WASHINGTON IN GENERAL

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Washington, D.C.

Fort Stevens

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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Wash Post
Mar. 5-1905

ORDERED LINCOLN DOWN.

Gen. Wright's Command to the President at Fort Stevens.

Among the inauguration visitors may be found some of the old Sixth Army Corps, whose arrival in the nick of time on the morning of July 12, 1864, saved the city of Washington from capture by Gen. Jubal A. Early. If they wish to visit the site of old Fort Stevens, where President Lincoln, from its parapet, watched the repulse of the enemy by a gallant charge, ordered by Gen. Wright, they will no longer find it a weary five-mile march in heat and dust, but a pleasant trolley ride of about half an hour.

Fort Stevens was located and built in October, 1861, by the troops from the Bay State, and by them christened Fort Massachusetts. When the more elaborate system of defenses for the city of Washington was planned Fort Massachusetts was rebuilt and greatly enlarged. It was also rechristened Fort Stevens, in memory of Brig. Gen. Isaac I. Stevens, of Massachusetts, who was killed at the battle of Chantilly, Va.

Secure in the belief that the Capital was no longer in any danger from the Confederate forces, Gen. Grant had drawn away from the Washington defenses the better part of the veteran troops which had been stationed there, and had it not been for the determined stand made by Gen. Lew Wallace at Monocacy River, by which Early lost one day in his plans, Fort Stevens might have fallen, the Capital and the President captured, with possibly a very different ending to the civil war.

Early's plans were unexpected, but quickly met. He marched around Gen. Sigel, captured Frederick, and forced its citizens to pay \$200,000 to avoid the sacking and burning of the town, and moved on to Washington. Gen. Wallace's force was too small to do more than hold the enemy in check for a short time, but it was enough. Gen. Grant, when the report of Early's movement first reached him, dispatched the Sixth Army Corps, under Gen. Horatio Wright, to Washington. Never did the President and his Cabinet feel greater joy than when these veterans marched from the wharf up Seventh street, and out Brightwood road. President Lincoln himself was soon at the fort, and remained with Gen. Wright while the decisive battle was fought. It is worthy of note that among the attacking force was Gen. John C. Breckinridge, the candidate of the Southern States for the Presidency, defeated by Lincoln.

Some eight years ago Gen. Wright revisited old Fort Stevens, and said to those who accompanied him:

"Here, on the top of this parapet, is the place where President Lincoln stood, witnessing the fight; there, by his side, a surgeon was wounded by a minie ball. I entreated the President not to expose his life, but he seemed oblivious to his surroundings. Finally, I said: 'Mr. President, I know you are commander of the armies of the United States, but I am in command here, and, as you are not safe where you are standing, and I am responsible for your personal safety, I order you to come down.' Mr. Lincoln looked at me, smiled, and then, more in consideration for my earnestness than from inclination, stepped down and took a position behind the parapet. Even then he would persist in standing up and exposing his tall form."

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Washington Post 3.5-1905

BOWLDER TO MARK OLD FORT STEVENS

8860 ————— 17-1911
Where Lincoln Saw Early
Driven from Capital.

HIS ONLY VIEW OF BATTLE

Historic Breastworks to Be "Monumented" Through Patient Efforts of Lewis C. White and Others.
W. V. Cox's Pamphlet Helps to Swell Patriotic Fund.

Old Fort Stevens is to be "monumented." On the site of the historic breastworks, from which President Lincoln watched the veteran Sixth Army Corps turn and drive back Gen. Early and his warriors in gray from a panic-stricken Capital, a boulder monument, capped by a five-ton granite stone, will soon be erected.

After years of soliciting and patient effort the Fort Stevens-Lincoln Military Park Association has raised sufficient money to make the marking of the site possible. Lewis C. White, secretary of the association, who has had charge of the collection work, now has something more than \$200 in hand, and if more is not forthcoming shortly the work will be done with this fund.

Pamphlet a Factor.

"The Defenses of Washington," a pamphlet prepared by W. V. Cox, president of the Second National Bank, and read by him before the Columbia Historical Society, has been a potent factor in the work of obtaining funds for the monument. Mr. Cox, at the solicitation of the society, had two different extra editions of his pamphlet printed and turned over to the officers, to be sold for the fund. More than \$125 was raised in this way. The remainder of the fund was obtained through the tireless efforts of Secretary White.

Mr. Cox's pamphlet graphically describes the conditions in Washington in 1861, when Gen. Early, cutting away from the Virginia campaign while Washington was practically helpless behind a string of unmanned breastworks, crossed the Potomac, advanced through Rockville, and appeared in front of Fort Stevens, about five miles from the Capital.

In Cordon of Defense.

Fort Stevens was one of a string of breastworks thrown around Washington at the outbreak of the civil war. It was erected at the point where this cordon of defenses crossed the Seventh street pike (Brightwood road) in 1861 and was enlarged in 1863. The ramparts ex-

posed ten twenty-four-pound and two eight-inch smooth-bored guns. Four of the guns were on barbette carriages, two at the northeast and two at the northwest.

As Early's approach was observed north of Rockville, all available men were pressed into service, and when the Confederate force had encamped before Fort Stevens they were massed behind the breastworks. In the meantime the wires had been kept hot with calls to the field headquarters—at one time Grant considered the advisability of withdrawing from in front Lee and returning to the defense of the Capital—and finally, the night before the morning Early expected to make his attack, the veteran Sixth Army Corps landed at the foot of Seventh street and marched to the scene of the morrow's battle.

Early's troops were worn out with their forced marches, but the fight the following day was a stiff one, everything going the way of the Union forces. The fight, however, and the fort itself is remembered in history rather as the place from which Lincoln watched the only battle of the war he was permitted to view than from any strictly military historic value.

Lincoln Braves Peril.

Against the protests of his Cabinet and military advisers, the President insisted that he be present during the fight. Mr. Cox, in his paper, tells of the following relation, by Gen. Horatio White, since dead, of Mr. Lincoln's part in the day:

"Here on the top of this parapet between this old embrasure and that, is the place where President Lincoln stood, witnessing the fight; there, by his side, a surgeon was wounded by a minie ball.

"I entreated the President not to expose his life to the bullets of the enemy; but he seemed oblivious to his surroundings; finally, when I found that my entreaties failed to make any impression on him, I said: 'Mr. President, I know you are commander of the armies of the United States, but I am in command here, and as you are not safe where you are standing, and I am responsible for your personal safety, I order you to come down.' Mr. Lincoln looked at me, smiled, and then, more in consideration of my earnestness than from inclination, stepped down and took position behind the parapet. Even then, he would persist in standing up and exposing his tall form."

tended from a point about fifty feet north of the present schoolhouse in a northerly direction.

During the war various troops camped in and around Fort Stevens, and to-day those who recall "war times" will tell of the Seventh Massachusetts being encamped on the White farm, on the west side of Brightwood avenue; the Tenth Massachusetts on the Lay farm; the Thirty-sixth New York on the east side of Brightwood avenue, opposite the hotel; the Rhode Island regiment on the old Ray farm, by Piney Branch; the Maine battery was west: Battery L, First Ohio, was east of Fort Stevens, while the "hundred-day men," all from Ohio, were then, as now, everywhere.

Barracks as Hospitals.

In the hollow ground south of Fort Stevens, capable of sheltering large bodies of men from curved artillery fire, were built barracks and officers' quarters, partly from timber cut down in front of the fortifications and from lumber in houses and fences belonging to Mr. M. G. Emery and others, which the soldiers tore down without consulting the owners. During the battle these barracks were converted into hospitals for receiving the wounded. The bricks from the chimneys and foundations of the torn-down houses were used in constructing baking ovens.

The Emery house, still standing, was used for headquarters by Gen. D. A. Couch, Gen. Francis A. Walker, and other officers, while the cupola was used as a signal station, and many were the messages, it is said, that were "wig-wagged" from it to the Soldiers' Home, Mount Pleasant, and even to the Capital.

The armament of Fort Stevens consisted of nineteen guns and two mortars; of these, five were thirty-pound rifled Par-

PATRIOTIC BODIES WILL ASK PARK AT OLD FORT STEVENS

Past Commander of G. A. R.
Expects Conventions to Re-
quest Congress to Act.

SAYS COST WOULD BE
REASONABLY SMALL

Col. McElroy Believes Thou-
sands Would Visit One of
War's Crucial Points.

Wash. Post, 6-30-1923

A nation-wide movement will soon be started by patriotic organizations for the conversion of old Fort Stevens into a national park, according to Col. John McElroy, past national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and prominent in civic and patriotic affairs.

The colonel believes the time has come for the people of Washington to take the initiative in a general movement which would restore the site of one of the turning points of the civil war—the site from which Lincoln watched the Union troops push back the hordes of rebels, which were within striking distance of the Union Capital.

In urging his proposal Col. McElroy says:

"There has come an unexcelled opportunity for the City of Washington to add to its attractiveness and interest. This will be by the restoration and conversion into a national park of old Fort Stevens, on the Seventh street road.

Lincoln's Most Intense Hour.

"Today all Christendom resounds with Lincoln's fame, and everything connected with him has a genuine, vital interest to every man and woman in the civilized world. Fort Stevens marked one of the most critical periods of the civil war, the most intense hour in Lincoln's life. As he stood on the ramparts of the fort and looked with those sadly prophetic eyes of his across the undulating plain, swarming with the enemies of the republic, there passed before his vision vistas of what should happen from both victory and defeat.

"We had then fought with all our might for three and one-half years to put down the rebellion. We had gone in debt billions of dollars, and we had entered upon each year of the war with high hopes of what we should do before winter. In spite of this, midsummer of July, 1864, had seen a powerful Confederate army knocking at the very gates of Washington. There was a panic, not only in Washington, but all through the loyal States. Even the Secretary of War and the general commanding the army were swept away by the panic. No one seemed to maintain his composure except Lincoln and Gen. Grant.

"The greenback, which was the life-blood of the business of the country, sank to the value of 35 cents on the dollar. On July 12, 1864, \$285 in greenbacks paid for \$100 in gold. This meant that the financiers were holding that the government had only one chance in three to save itself.

"The tide changed when the two divisions of the Sixth corps rushed out on the Seventh street road, attacked Early's force, and drove it back under the eyes of the President. From the time of this emergence through the sally-port of Fort Stevens, everything went our way until the crowning effort of Appomattox. The magnitude of that crucial hour becomes overwhelming in the minds of all who stop to study it.

"The people of the whole world are eager for everything which serves as a souvenir of the great emancipator, and few things could be presented to them of more interest than the conversion of the old fort, where Lincoln stood, into a national park.

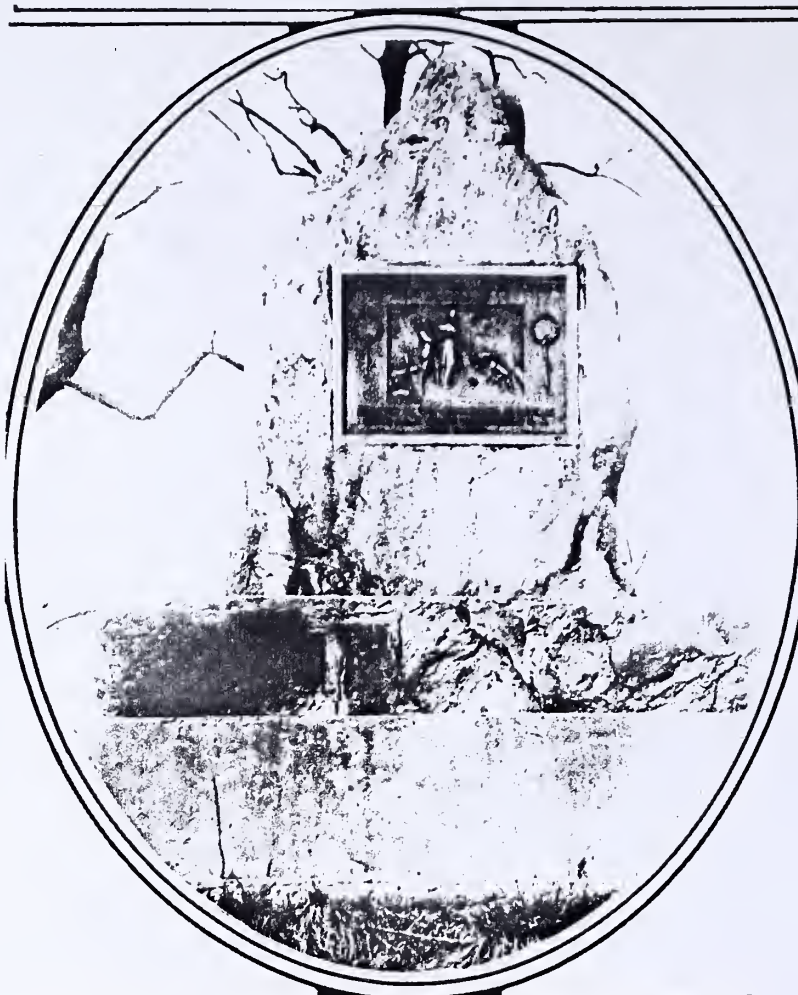
Cost Comparatively Small.

"Washington is continually thronged with tourists, many of them from across the seas, who are eagerly looking for reminders of our past history and, especially, of Lincoln, and their numbers will go on increasing. The obvious thing to do is to have an act of Congress passed making Fort Stevens into a national park. The government should restore the works to as near as possible the condition of war times, arm the fort with old guns of civil war pattern, clear off the glacis in front so as to give something of the view Lincoln had. Already the spot upon which he stood by the side of Gen. Wright has been defined, and a huge bowlder placed there to commemorate the place. There should be markers placed to show every position of the Union and Confederate forces on that highly critical occasion, with plain inscriptions on the markers.

"If this is done Fort Stevens will become the mecca of all the automobilists arriving in the city and of all tourists from abroad. It will prove immensely more attractive than any building, statue or monument that could be put up, and would cost comparatively little.

"The thing to do is for Washingtonians themselves to take an interest in the project and bestir themselves. It is likely that the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Veterans, United Spanish War Veterans, American Legion and world war men will at their coming national encampments pass strong resolutions in favor of this object lesson in history, and that we can have the whole force of these organizations behind this movement.

"It will be the greatest object lesson in patriotism that any country in the world can show."



THE SPOT WHERE LINCOLN WAS UNDER FIRE in the Civil war has been marked with a monument. It is at Fort Stevens, D. C. *Railway* 1/6/71-3-76—Press.

President Lincoln Under Fire

The following incident appears in Ben Perley Poore's, book, Vol. II of "Reminiscences of Sixty Years in the National Metropolis." 1886 c published by Hubbard Bros. Philadelphia. It is as follows:

General Lee, wishing to force General Grant back to the defense of Washington, ordered a corps under General Early to attack the Union capital, which was thought to be guarded only by a few regiments of heavy artillery and by a home brigade of quartermasters' clerks, improvised by Quartermaster-General Meigs. On the 12th of July 1864, the ad-

vance guard of the Confederates, commanded by General Breckenridge, came within the defenses of Washington, where they were, to their great surprise, confronted by the Sixth corps, under General Wright, and after a few volleys had been exchanged they precipitately retreated, and hurriedly recrossed the Potomac. This brief engagement was witnessed from the parapet of Fort Stevens by President Lincoln, who would not retire until an officer was shot down within a few feet of him, when he reluctantly stepped below. Sheltered from the sharpshooters' fire, cabinet officers and a group of society ladies watched the fortunes of the fight. It was no mock-battle that they witnessed on the outskirts of the national metropolis. Stretchers soon conveyed the dying and wounded to the hospital in the rear of the fort, and the graves remain there of those who fought and fell, with the President of the United States and his competitor at the preceding election on opposite sides, interested spectators of the scene.—End of quotation.

Wk by Wk — 3/21/36

Lincoln the Only President Ever Under Enemy's Fire While Holding Office of Chief Executive; It Happened at Fort Stevens Just 75 Years Ago



PRESIDENT LINCOLN UNDER FIRE AT FORT STEVENS. (From the sketch by James E. Kelly in the Kelly collection owned by Dr. George Hope Ryder of New York City, reproduced by courtesy of the United States Army Recruiting News.)

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago this month a President of the United States stood on the parapets of a fort and heard the bullets of enemy soldiers whistling about his ears—the only case on record of a Chief Executive having that experience during his term of office. The President was Abraham Lincoln and the scene of his narrow escape from death was Fort Stevens on the outskirts of Washington on July 12, 1864. It came about in this way:

In June of that year Grant began his famous "hammering" campaign against Richmond which drove Lee back upon Petersburg. By the first of July it seemed certain that Petersburg was doomed and when it fell the door to the capital of the Confederacy would be opened.

Realizing that Grant was not to be beaten off by direct assault, Lee decided to make a threatening gesture toward Washington.

He sent Gen. Jubal A. Early and 30,000 picked men to the Shenandoah valley to sweep down upon Washington from the north. Early had reached Martinsburg, W. Va., before Grant became aware of what was taking place. Immediately the Union commander ordered small detachments of cavalry into the valley to harass Early and delay him until he could bring the Sixth Army Corps to the rescue of the capital. Next he ordered Gen. Lew Wallace, who was at Annapolis with 8,000 "hundred-day men" to intercept Early at Frederick.

Sweeping up the Shenandoah, Early crushed a small Union force commanded by Gen. Franz Sigel, swung off to Maryland Heights and bottled up another force led by General Weber. On July 5 he crossed the Potomac and the next day captured both Hagerstown and Frederick. On July 8 he met Wallace's green troops on the banks of the Monocacy and, although he defeated them decisively and scattered them, Wallace partially accomplished his purpose of delaying the invaders for a little while. Then Early began making forced marches. July 10 found him at Rockville and the morning of the eleventh his cavalry reached Silver Spring, on the outskirts of Washington, with the main column close behind.

Washington was protected by 29 forts and 11 batteries on the south; 12 forts in Anacostia; two at Chain Bridge and 19 forts and 23 heavy batteries on the north. All of these fortifications were connected by deep rifle pits and had heavy guns, but Maj. Gen.

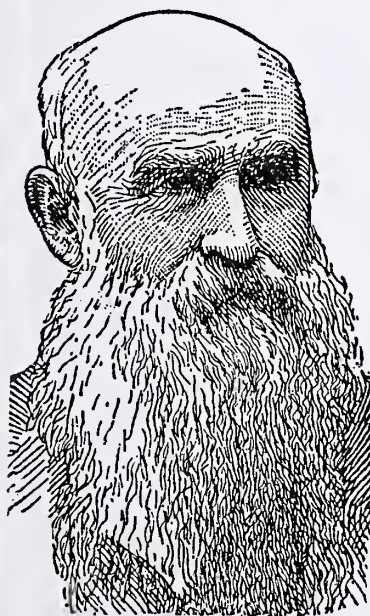
Horatio G. Wright, commander of the Washington defenses, had fewer than 3,000 men in his garrisons.

As Early's troops approached the city along the Seventh street pike, a force of Federal cavalry was sent to meet the invaders. But these were soon beaten back and Confederate sharpshooters, taking possession of houses along the pike, began pouring a murderous fire into the rifle pits into which General Wright had rushed all his effective troops.

Meanwhile Wright had been combing the hospitals in Washington and every man who could walk was put into uniform and pressed into service. The Union commander marched these troops back and forth in full view of the Confederate lookouts, moved them from fort to fort and changed their positions in the rifle pits frequently to give an impres-

sion of a great force of troops in reserve. Then, just as the Confederates started to deploy along a two-mile front for a concerted attack, Wright attempted a magnificent bluff.

A skeleton regiment of 400 men of the Twenty-fifth New York dismounted cavalry, commanded by Captain Chamberlain, which had just arrived from Baltimore, where it was being remounted and reorganized after being cut to pieces during the fighting in Virginia, filed into the rifle pits. Suddenly they leaped out, and, yelling like demons, charged through the picket line, drove back the Confederate skirmishers



GEN. JUBAL A. EARLY

and recaptured the stone houses where the Gray sharpshooters were hiding. Acting as though Grant's "Invincible Sixth Corps" were backing them up, instead of a few thousand ineffective troops, they completely fooled the invaders and stopped their advance.

Early hesitated—and let slip his golden opportunity to capture Washington and perhaps end the war. As the forts increased their fire he began to withdraw his troops. A few hours later Grant's veterans of the Wilderness marched into the capital. Washington was saved!

That night there was heavy skirmishing in what is now Rock Creek park and Brightwood with the guns of Fort Stevens and Fort De Russey still roaring defiance at the invaders. During the night Early learned from his spies how he had been fooled and, filled with rage at the thought of his lost opportunity, he resolved to renew the attack despite the arrival of the Union reinforcements.

On the morning of July 12 he again advanced to the attack, after sending his sharpshooters forward to open fire on the defenders of the forts. During the morning President Lincoln arrived on the scene in his carriage, accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln. As General Wright advanced to greet him, the President extended his hand, saying, "General, I am very glad to see you. This looks

as though we were going to do something."

"Mr. President," replied the general, pointing toward Fort Stevens, "if you'll just come along down there with me, I'll show you one of the prettiest little fights you could wish to see." Years later, General Wright told of the historic incident thus:

"No sooner were the words out of my mouth than I deeply regretted having uttered them. I fully realized that the President's life was far too valuable to be brought into danger by any careless words of mine. But it was too late. He not only accepted my invitation but insisted upon accompanying me, notwithstanding all I could say to prevent him. He sent his wife back and when I mounted the parapet, there he was beside me, looking out upon the scene with a great deal of interest. The enemy's sharpshooters were firing pretty closely, and I explained to him that the place was entirely too dangerous for him.

"'It is not more dangerous for me than it is for you,' he replied coolly.

"'But it is my duty to be here while it is your duty not to expose yourself. Your position requires this, and I particularly request you to remember it.'

"Just then a sharpshooter's bullet struck a surgeon who was standing near the President and I became really alarmed for his safety and I have no doubt, a little excited, as I said firmly:

"'Mr. President, you must really get down from this exposed position. I cannot allow you to remain here longer and if you refuse I shall deem it my duty to have you removed under guard'

"'I suppose the absurdity of my threatening to put the President of the United States under arrest amused him, for he smiled, looked at me quizzically and got down behind the parapet, where I provided him with an ammunition box for a seat, but he wouldn't sit still a minute at a time and was constantly stretching up his long form to see what was going on, thereby exposing fully half of himself to danger in spite of all I could do; and thus he continued to bob up and down until the action was over, when he cheered lustily along with the rest and bidding us good night, got into his carriage and rode away home.'"

Soon afterwards the whole Confederate line moved forward but counter-attacks from Fort De Russey drove the flanks in toward Fort Stevens. Despite the hot fire poured into the Confederates, they advanced to within a short distance of the rifle pits before their lines broke and retreated. Under the cover of darkness, General Early withdrew his forces and crossed over into Virginia at White's Ford into Loudoun county. His retreat was a masterly one and accomplished with such skill that the Union forces were not aware of his withdrawal until he was too far away to be overtaken.

In recent years a reproduction of old Fort Stevens, whose valiant defenders saved the nation's capital 75 years ago, was constructed by CCC workers and today a granite monument marks the spot upon which Lincoln stood as he watched the fighting. A bronze tablet on the monument reproduces the historic scene of July 12, 1864—the only time an American President was under combat fire while in office.



GEN. HORATIO G. WRIGHT

This bronze tablet was executed from a sketch made by James E. Kelly, a famous sculptor and artist of Civil war scenes. Early in 1896 Kelly was in Washington while his model submitted in competition for the proposed equestrian monument of Gen. W. T.

Sherman was on display in the war department. At that time Wright, who had been retired from the army was in the capital. Kelly had known Wright while both were living in New York during the seventies and had made a medallion portrait of him.

On January 17, 1896, the artist accompanied the general to the site of Fort Stevens near Brightwood, D. C., and there, under Wright's direction, he sketched the picture of Lincoln standing on the parapet of Fort Stevens, exposed to the fire of General Early's sharpshooters. That picture, signed and dated by Wright, is now in the possession of Dr. George Hope Ryder of New York city, owner of the Kelly collection of Civil war sketches.

* * *

Later this sketch was made into a finished drawing which was used for the tablet erected on the spot and dedicated on July 12, 1911. This finished drawing was first reproduced in the United States Army Recruiting News, by whose courtesy it is reproduced with this article.

* * *

When Lincoln stood on the parapets of Fort Stevens and watched the fighting, he little realized that a fellow-Kentuckian, who was an old political opponent of his, was watching the battle from the other side. Yet such was the case, for two of Early's divisions were commanded by Maj. Gen. John C. Breckinridge, one of the Democratic candidates whom Lincoln had defeated in the presidential election of 1860.

During the attack on Washington, Early and Breckinridge made their headquarters at Sil-



GEN. J. C. BRECKINRIDGE

ver Spring in the home of Francis P. Blair, famous as a member of Andrew Jackson's "Kitchen Cabinet" and editor of the Washington Globe, which was established at Jackson's request as the official administration newspaper. Blair and Breckinridge were cousins and before the war Breckinridge had often visited in the Blair mansion at Silver Spring.

So he saw to it that Early's soldiers did not molest Blair's private correspondence, consisting of letters from Jackson, Henry Clay and other notables, which had been left in the house. He even had Blair's silver plate transferred to another house for safekeeping and sent a note to Blair telling him what he had done. However, the home of Blair's son, Montgomery Blair, postmaster general in Lincoln's cabinet, did not escape so easily. It was burned to the ground by Early's soldiers.

There is an amusing story of how they captured two gamecocks owned by the Washington correspondent of Horace Greeley's New York Tribune. Although gamecocks are not the most toothsome kind of chicken, the Grayjackets are said to have taken unusual delight in boiling and eating the two which had been owned by "Old Horace's" representative!

After Early's departure a volume of Lord Byron's poems was found in which a Confederate soldier had written this message to the President: "Near Washington, July 12, 1864. Now, Uncle Abe, you had better be quiet during the balance of your administration. We only came near your town this time to show you what we could do, but if you go on in your mad career, we will come again soon, and you had better stand from under. Yours respectfully, The Worst Rebel You Ever Saw. Fifty-eighth Virginia Infantry."

Fort Stevens, Where Lincoln Saw Battle

In Georgia avenue, near Walter Reed hospital and not many miles from the White House, is a small but neatly kept cemetery. It is a grim reminder of the trying period during the Civil war when the Confederates were almost in sight of the Capitol.



Fort Stevens Cemetery.

Here rest 40 soldiers who fell in the battle of Fort Stevens on that occasion. Fort Stevens, which stood not far from this cemetery, was one of the hastily thrown up chain of small forts which encircled the city. It was the only one of the local forts that figured in a battle during the War of the Rebellion. It was here that President Lincoln exposed himself to fire to watch the engagement. He exercised his prerogative as commander-in-chief of the army to do so after General Wright ordered him to retire from danger.

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 699

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 31, 1942

LINCOLN UNDER GUNFIRE

The military strategy of Robert E. Lee on one occasion brought Abraham Lincoln under gunfire at Fort Stevens, within two miles of where the President spent his summers at the Soldiers' Home in Washington. Grant was slowly advancing upon Richmond in July 1864 and Lee felt that he might be able to divert Grant's attention to some other front. With this purpose in mind he sent Gen. Jubal A. Early and 30,000 men up the Shenandoah Valley to make a direct attack on the city of Washington from the north. If success and failure can be computed in terms of hours, it might be said that Early came within twenty-four hours of capturing the National Capitol. It was this offensive move that brought Lincoln within range of Confederate guns, but it did not cause Grant to be drawn from his supreme objective.

Historians have been so busy condemning General Lew Wallace for his part in the trial of Lincoln's assassins that they have placed little emphasis upon the fact that possibly more than anyone else General Wallace was responsible for delaying General Early during those costly twenty-four hours which apparently stood between him and success at Washington. The heroic stand of General Wallace's greatly outnumbered hundred-day-men at Monocacy on July 8 delayed the progress of Early long enough so that reinforcements from Grant's army arrived in Washington about the time Early's troops appeared before the Capital City.

On Sunday, July 10, Lincoln sent a telegram to Baltimore with respect to the advancing Confederate Army in which he stated, "By latest accounts the enemy is moving on Washington. They cannot fly to either place. Let us be vigilant, but keep cool."

Irrespective of the fact that the enemy was marching on the city, instead of staying at the White House that very evening, Lincoln as was his custom, during the hot summer months, went to spend the night at the Anderson Cottage which was on the direct line of march into the city. Early and his troops were but a few miles away. Fearful for Lincoln's safety, Secretary Stanton insisted that the President return to the White House. On the following morning the Confederate troops continued their march on to Washington.

It was on the afternoon of Monday, July 11, that Rhodes' division of Early's troops arrived within sight of Fort Stevens which protected the Seventh Street entrance to the city, and they were immediately brought in line for an attack. Just at this time, however, about 600 Union soldiers were seen by Early to file into the fort. After sending out a fringe of skirmishers the Union forces opened fire from all the batteries and the contest for the Capital City was on.

That afternoon shortly after General Early saw a column of blue-coated soldiers file into the fort, General Wright with two divisions from the Army of the Potomac arrived in Washington and Lincoln was at the wharf to meet them as they disembarked from the transports.

The stories about Lincoln's appearance at Fort Stevens, how he behaved, what those in command said to him and his own reaction toward the episode are rapidly approaching the status of folklore.

Lincoln was at Fort Stevens on both days that Early's men were before the city. In fact he may have made more than one trip to the Fort on each day. It is known that he visited several other fortifications on the outskirts of the city with Secretary Seward. According to Nicolay and Hay: "He saw the first shots exchanged in front of Fort Stevens, and stood in the Fort, his tall figure making him a conspicuous mark until ordered to withdraw."

If he saw this first engagement it must have been on that Monday afternoon, and it is observed that at this time he was ordered to seek protection behind the fortifications when he unduly exposed himself to the enemy sharpshooters.

On the morning of the twelfth, General Wright sent out Bidwell's brigade to scatter some Confederate skirmishers who had established themselves in a house and orchard on the Silver Spring road. It was this engagement between the Union and Confederate troops that usually is referred to as the one Lincoln saw at Fort Stevens and where it is said that he so persistently endangered himself that he was finally ordered to come within the protecting walls of the Fort. There are many different versions as to just what happened and just what orders were given and what was said, but of this fact we are sure that Lincoln was under gunfire on the morning of July 12, 1864, at Fort Stevens.

Nicolay and Hay gave this version of Lincoln's behavior at the time of the Tuesday morning engagement: "On the 12th when Bidwell's brigade marched in perfect order, out of the works to drive the enemy from the Rives house, the President again stood, watching, with that grave and passive countenance, the progress of the fight amid the whizzing bullets of the sharpshooters, until an officer fell mortally wounded within three feet of him and General Wright preemptorily represented to him the needless risk he was running."

General Wright who was in command of the troops at Fort Stevens gave this version of Mr. Lincoln's presence there on July 12:

"During the morning President Lincoln arrived on the scene in his carriage, accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln. . . . He sent his wife back and when I mounted the parapet, there he was beside me, looking out upon the scene with a great deal of interest. The enemy's sharpshooters were firing pretty closely, and I explained to him that the place was entirely too dangerous for him.

"'It is not more dangerous for me than it is for you,' he replied coolly.

"'But it is my duty to be here while it is your duty not to expose yourself. Your position requires this, and I particularly request you to remember it.'

"Just then a sharpshooter's bullet struck a surgeon who was standing near the President and I became really alarmed for his safety and I have no doubt a little excited, as I said firmly:

"'Mr. President, you must really get down from this exposed position. I cannot allow you to remain here longer and if you refuse I shall deem it my duty to have you removed under guard.'

"I suppose the absurdity of my threatening to put the President of the United States under arrest amused him, for he smiled, looked at me quizzically and got down behind the parapet, where I provided him with an ammunition box for a seat, but he wouldn't sit still a minute at a time and was constantly stretching up his long form to see what was going on, thereby exposing fully half of himself to danger in spite of all I could do; and thus he continued to bob up and down until the action was over, when he cheered lustily along with the rest and bidding us good night, got into his carriage and rode away home."

The spot where Lincoln was standing at Fort Stevens is now marked with a bronze tablet portraying General Wright, the wounded Assistant Surgeon Crawford, and President Lincoln under gunfire.

J. Swayne, R.F. P.O.D. #2
Malvern, Pa.

Jan 14, 1951

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sirs,

I have been advised to
write to you for the following
information: —

I would like to know
how many paintings of
Pres. Lincoln have been
painted — that is —
from life? Also, the
date, artist & etc.??

I trust you will be able
to send me this list.

Enclosed please find a
three cent stamp to cover
cost of return reply.

Also, please advise if you
print any booklet or etc.
about Pres. Lincoln? If
so, how does one obtain
them?

Your detailed reply will
be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much
for your interest, time
trouble, and kind
consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Swayne.

January 22, 1951

Mr. Robert E. Swayne
R. F. D. #2
Malvern, Pennsylvania

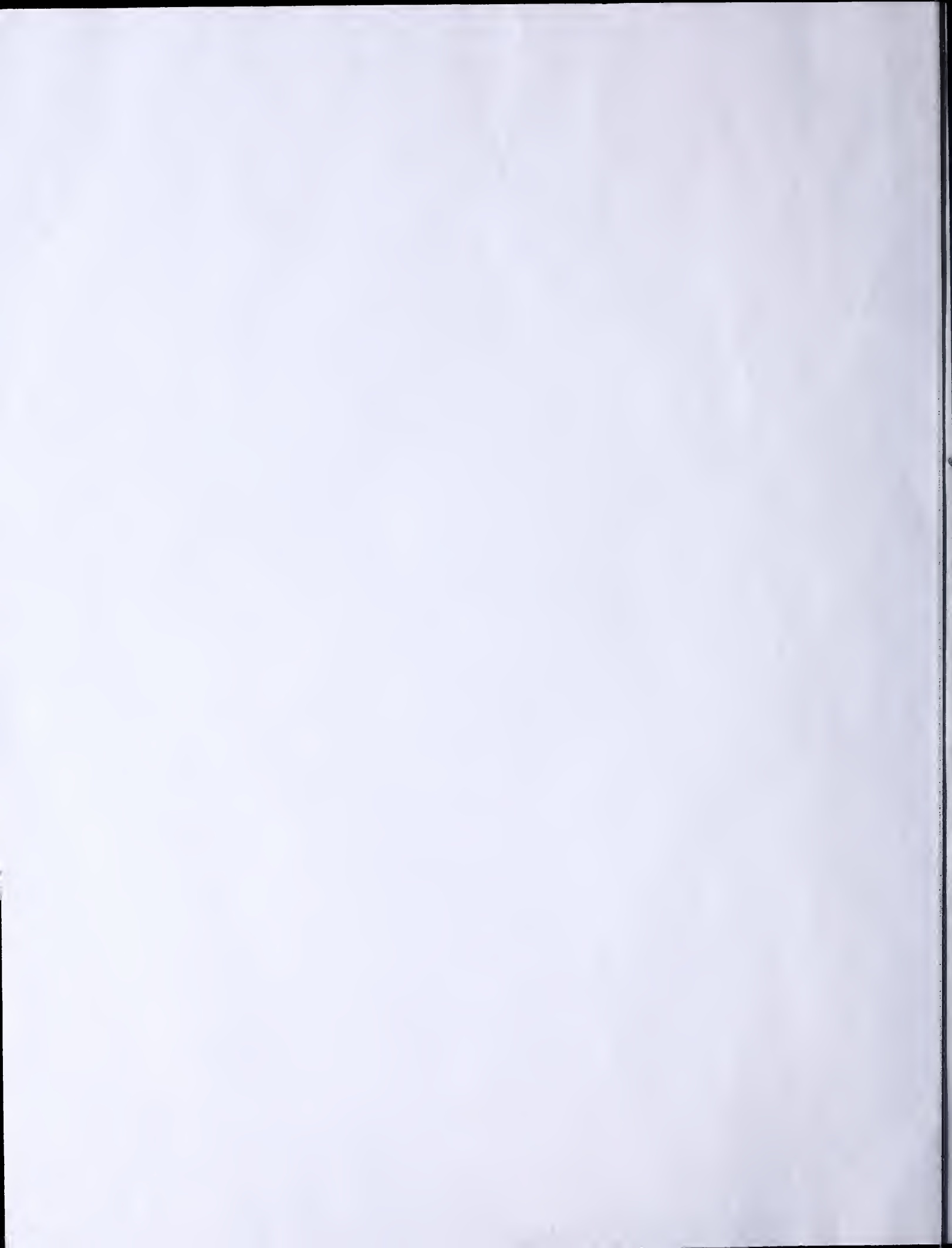
Dear Mr. Swayne:

I do not know of any complete compilation of Lincoln paintings from life. I do have some bulletins which I will be free to send which gives you some information although it most certainly is not exhaustive.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:OS
Dr. L.A. Warren



4
R. F. D. #2
Malvern, Pa.
Sept 14, 1951.

The Lincoln National
Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director.

Dear Sir,

Please advise about the
following:—

- 1- Would like to know how
much your paper "Lincoln Low"
costs? (a year).
- 2- Could I obtain complete
back copies for the following
years—1939 to present?
- 3- Would you say that your
paper is one of the best if
not the best item giving
all the complete new
data concerning President
Lincoln—as it is discovered?

Please advise.

I am greatly interested in the Civil War and President Lincoln. My late Grandmother, Susan (Saxon) Nicholson often related stories about the Civil War and Lincoln. She passed away in 1949 in her 95th year. Her father (who was born in England) enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War. Also, four uncles enlisted in the Union Army - one was killed near Petersburg, Va. in 1864 - his body was never found. Another uncle died 3 months after his discharge ^(in 1865) from the effects of the war. Her father also worked in the U.S. Hospital at Chester, Pa. during the Civil War. Many, many times I have heard Grandmother tell about these events of long, long ago, and now both are gone.

and only the memory lives on.
and it shall live on as long as
I live.

I trust you will find time
to answer this letter and the
three questions I listed.

Enclosed please find a stamp
to cover cost of your early
return reply.

Thank you very much for
your interest, time, and
kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Swayne.

September 18, 1951

Mr. Robert E. Swayne
R.F.D. #2
Malvern, Penn.

My dear Mr. Swayne:

There is no charge whatever for Lincoln Lore, the publication which this Foundation issues, and we are happy to place your name on our mailing list. We regret that we are not able to supply any considerable number of back copies, but a few of them will be attached.

There is no other Lincoln bulletin circulation similar to ours, copies of the articles are sent to the press each week and are assembled and mailed each month.

on m. l. 9-18-51

Very truly yours,

LAW:BB
Encl.

Director

R. D. D. #2
Malvern, Pa.
Oct 10, 1951.

The Lincoln National
Life Foundation:
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Mr. Louis Warren, Director

Dear Sir,

I am again writing to you
for Lincoln information:—

I have two Lincoln Mortuary
Medals but I have not been
able to locate any data
concerning them — would
like to know the exact
date of issue month, day, 1865
and etc.

1 - "North Western Sanitary Fair,
Chicago, Ill. 1865." Copper
By Paquet (only 500 medals
struck). 57½ mm.

~~By Paquet~~ plus 501
Silver Andrew C. Paquet
exposed at White tent
Charles K. Wimmer 500.

2 - "Abraham Lincoln, Death, 1865"
Broken column. White metal.

By Key. 51 mm.
Engraved at U.S. Mint Philadelphia

Aug 24 7, silver coffee ^{press} article with

- 1- Would like to know ^{which one} of these was the first "struck" by the U. S. Mint after the death of Pres. Lincoln?
- 2- Were both "struck" for private concerns or were they struck by the U. S. Government in memory of their late Pres. (like the F. D. Roosevelt Memorial Medal by U. S. Mint in 1945)?

Perhaps the Paget one was struck for the use of the Sanitary Fair which was held on ———, 1865 at Chicago. But, why was

Enclosed please find 9¢ in
stamps to cover cost of return
reply.

Thank you very much for
your interest, time, and
kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Swayne.

October 17, 1951

Mr. Robert E. Swayne
R.F. D.#2
Malvern, Penn.

My dear Sir:

I regret I can be of little assistance to you in determining which was the first mortuary medal struck of Abraham Lincoln. A King list of numbers, approximately 50 of them, Northwestern Sanitary Fair, numbered by King is 501 apparently was limited to 500 medals and the engraver, Anthony Paquet was an engraver at the U.S.Mint at Philadelphia.

The other medal you list by Key, also was an engraver at the Philadelphia Mint is listed as King 247, and is available in silver, copper, brass and white medal.

You will please find under separate cover as many of the Lincoln Lozes as seem to be available.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BB

Director

R. F. D. #2
Malvern, Pa.
Nov 9, 1951.

The Lincoln National
Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.
Dr Louis A. Warren, Director.

Dear Sir,

as of this date I have not received
any of the recent copies of your "Lincoln
Lore." The last issue I received was
the July 30, 1951 issue. As of your
letter of Sept 18, 1951 you placed my
name of your mailing list. I do
not know just when you mail
the issues -- each week, or monthly,
or every three months -- however,
I have not received any for Aug.,
Sept., and Oct. I trust you will
be able to send me these copies
as I wish, from now on, to
keep a complete file of them.
Thank you very much for all.

also, if possible, please send
me the following "Lincoln Lore"
#445 -- Oct 18, 1937 and #704 -- "Hawes"
669

and "Accessmule" - Feb 2, 1942.

also, did you print any detailed data about Lorant's newly discovered photographs of Lincoln - in July 1947 and in Feb 1949 (see Sat Eve. Post July 19, 1947 and N.Y. Times Magazine of Feb 13, 1949).

also, the newly discovered photograph of Lincoln in Robert S. Harper's book "Lincoln and the Press" published early in 1951. Please advise if you printed any unknown data about these photos.

are these three (3) photographs the only new ones discovered or found since 1944 the date of the last book on Lincoln's photographs ??

If you will kindly advise I will greatly appreciate it very much. Thank you very, very, much for your kind attention and interest.

Enclosed please find a stamp to cover cost of your return reply.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Swayne.

November 14, 1951

Mr. Robert E. Swayne
R. F. D. #2
Malvern, Penn.

My dear Mr. Swayne:

Attached are the copies of the Lincoln
Lore which you mention and I regret we have no detailed
information about the two photographs discovered by
Mr. Lorant.

The frontispiece of Harpers Book "Lincoln
and the Press" is not new, is No. 56 in the Meserve
classification.

Since 1944 Mr. Meserve has issued a
supplement containing eight Lincoln photographs which
sells for \$5.00, I believe. You might write to him at
148 E. 78th Street, New York City.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JK
L. A. Warren

Director



5

P. O. D. #2
Malvern, Pa.
March 18, 1952

Lincoln National Life Foundation

Port Wayne, Indiana.

Dr Louis A. Warren, Editor.

Dear Sir,

I would like to advise you of several mistakes recently made — in your issue of Jan 31, 1949 — No 1034 — and also

several times in the book "Lincoln Under Enemy Fire" by John H. Cramer.

It has been stated in your issue and in Cramer's book that "Abraham Lincoln was the only President of the United States who was actually under gunfire while serving as the Chief Executive."

— "the only times on which a President of the United States was exposed to the gunfire of an enemy force." This is not true !!!

According to "Famous First Facts" by Joseph Nathan Kane (H. H. Wilson & Co., N.Y. 1950) I quote — "The first President to face enemy gunfire while in office, and the first President to use his authority as Commander-in-Chief

was James Madison, the fourth President, who assumed command Aug 25, 1814, of Commodore Joshua Barney's battery, known as "Barney's Battery," stationed a half-mile north of Bladensburg, Md.

Madison joined the troops near Bladensburg, Md., and while there they were fired on. They then retreated. Pres. Madison was the first wartime President and first President elected during wartime, first Pres. inaugurated during wartime.

I would greatly appreciate your reply concerning this important matter. I was going to advise Mr. Cramer but I note he has since died.

I think Professors James G. Randall and Mark De Wolfe Howe should be advised as they both assisted Mr. Cramer in writing this book "Lincoln Under Enemy Fire." Perhaps you could advise these authors of this mistake.

Enclosed please find a stamp to cover cost of your return reply.

I shall wait to hear from you concerning this. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,
Robert E. Swayne.

March 27, 1952

Mr. Robert E. Swayne
R.F.D. #2
Malvern, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Swayne:

Thank you very much for your correction with respect to Lincoln having been the first President under enemy fire. I do not know that there is any comment to make except acknowledge the error and I am sure that others who have made the same mistake would be pleased to be corrected, which I shall do as I meet those who have made the same mistake as my own.

Thank you very much for calling this matter to our attention.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BB

Director

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THE DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON

by
JOHN GROSS BARNARD

When, after the disaster at Bull Run, it became apparent that the war was to be a struggle of long duration, the necessity of the thorough fortifying of Washington ceased to be doubtful. The situation was indeed such as to admit of no elaborate plans, scarcely of the adequate study of the ground necessary to a judicious location of a line so extensive. The first exigency was to fortify the position on the heights of Arlington, the most obvious manner of doing which was to connect Forts Corcoran and Albany by intermediate works, within musketry or canister range of each other, and thus form, with Fort Runyon, a chain or a "couronne," covering at the same time the bridges and the heights. The ground, furrowed by numerous ravines, proved sufficiently favorable, and the large lunettes, with stockaded gorges, Forts Craig, Tillinghast, Cass, Woodbury, and DeKalb (subsequently called Fort Strong), were speedily laid out and begun. The location of these works, as also their design and construction, were principally due to Majors Woodbury and Alexander. Fort Corcoran being on a "step" or small plateau of inferior level to that of the heights, it was necessary to continue the line, by Fort DeKalb toward the river, along the higher level. As it requires many days to obtain, in regularly-profiled field forts, so much cover as will make them partially defensible, a temporary expedient for improvising defense was found in making a wide "slashing" through the forest in advance of the line of these intended works, and a marginal slashing around its edge. Half-sunk batteries for field-guns were prepared between the sites of Forts DeKalb and Woodbury and near that of Fort Craig.³ From the heights north of the Potomac, between Georgetown and the distributing reservoir, which overlooked and commanded the ground in advance of the defensive line, a formidable flanking fire was obtained by the erection of "Battery Cameron" for two rifled 42-pounders.

The wooded ridge which lies north of and parallel to the lower course of Four-mile Run, offered a favorable position from which the city, the Long Bridge, and the plateau in advance of it could be overlooked and cannonaded, and from which it was important to exclude the enemy so long as our defensive line was thus limited. Access to it was made difficult by felling the forest with which it was covered (about 200 acres) and the construction upon it of the large lunette (Fort Scott) was begun as soon as the site could be fixed. The subsequent extension of the line to embrace Alexandria threw this work and Fort Albany into the rear, but it retained, nevertheless, a considerable importance, since, taken in connection with Forts Richardson, Craig, and others, it completed a defensive line for Washington independent of the

- 1 - This article is taken from General Barnard's Report on the Defenses of Washington, being No. 20 of the Professional Papers of the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1871.
- 2 - Barnard was a Major General by brevet and Colonel, Corps of Engineers.
- 3-- With the experience our troops and engineers acquired 2-3 years later, this whole position would in 24 hrs have been formidably intrenched by a continuous line of rifle-pits. But we had not then the men who could be trusted to hold such a line.

extension to Alexandria.

While these operations were going on General Richardson, whose division held position along the Columbia Turnpike, had occupied and pointed out the importance of the eminence in advance of Fort Albany commanding the plateau along which that road passes and flanking the Arlington lines. The small inclosed polygonal work, "Fort Richardson," was begun thereon about September 1, 1861.

The defense of Alexandria and its connection with that of Washington was a subject of anxious study. The exigency demanding immediate measures, the first idea naturally was, availing ourselves of Fort Ellsworth as one point of the defensive system, to connect it with Fort Scott by intermediate works on Mount Ida and adjacent heights. A protracted study of the topography for several miles in advance showed that such a line would be indefensible. Not only would the works themselves be commanded by heights in advance, but the troops which should support them would be restricted to a narrow space, in which they would be overlooked and harassed by the enemy's distant fire. The occupation, therefore, of the heights a mile in advance of Fort Ellsworth, upon which Theological Seminary is situated, seemed absolutely necessary, and examination showed their topography to be favorable to a defensive line, as points of which the sites of Forts Worth and Ward were selected and the work begun about the first of September, and the line thence continued simultaneously by Fort Reynolds to connect with Forts Richardson and Craig. Somewhat later Fort Barnard, intermediate between Reynolds and Richardson, and partially filling the gap, was begun. It commanded the valley of Four-Mile Run and flanked a deep tributary ravine lying across the approaches of Forts Reynolds and Ward.

The heights south of Hunting Creek, overlooking Alexandria and more elevated than Fort Ellsworth, were for some time a subject of anxiety. The fortification of the Seminary Heights, which commanded them, diminished materially the danger of their temporary seizure by the enemy. As soon, however (about the middle of September), as a sufficient force could be detached to occupy the position and protect the construction, the large fort, called Lyon, was begun, Major (Brevet Major General) Newton, then attached as an engineer officer to the staff of General Franklin, selecting the site and planning the work. This extensive field-work occupied a month or two in construction, during which time the position was made somewhat more defensible by rifle-trenches across the plateau in advance.

While strengthening as rapidly as possible our most assailable and, at first, exceedingly weak position on the south shore of the Potomac, it was, though perhaps less urgent, still necessary to provide some auxiliary defenses to the city itself against approaches along the northern shores. In the summer and autumn the Potomac is easily fordable at points not distant from Washington. The army which had been victorious at Manassas, and whose advance posts were soon visible at Munson's Hill, might, it was thought, improve the critical period which followed, ere our rapidly-arriving volunteer regiments could be organized into a formidable force, and while that which had fought that battle, disorganized by defeat, was dwindling away by expiration of three months' term of service, to cross the river and assail us, where the results of success, even if involving greater risks, would have been the most decisive.

To meet the emergency, works were necessarily thrown up without that deliberate study of the topography in which the establishment of such defensive line should, if practicable, be based. The first directions given to our labors were to secure the roads, not merely as the beaten highways of travel from the country to the city, but as, in general, occupying the best ground for an enemy's approach. Thus the site of Fort Pennsylvania (subsequently called Fort Reno) was early in August selected on the heights of Tennallytown, commanding the three roads already described, which unite at that place. This position, strongly held and aided by Fort Gaines soon after located and begun, made it comparatively easy to exclude hostile approach by the sector of country between the Potomac and Rock Creek. Fort Stevens, commanding the Seventh Street road, and, in connection with it, Forts Totten and Slocum, were almost simultaneously begun, as also Fort Lincoln, commanding the Baltimore Turnpike and Baltimore Railroad. As speedily as possible thereafter the intervening works, Forts DeRussy, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Slemmer, and Thayer, were interpolated.

The fixing of the left of the line on the Potomac was less obvious. The topography indicated its continuance from Tennallytown along the brow of the heights overlooking the valley of Powder-Mill Run, at a point of which, indeed, Fort Gaines was actually being built. This would have brought the left near and behind the Chain

Bridge. It was deemed indispensable not only that this bridge should be within our line, but so far within as to be protected from artillery fire from hostile batteries. It was also imperative to protect the "receiving reservoir" of the Washington Aqueduct, upon which the city depended for most of its supply of water. Hence the final establishment of the left on the heights, close to the river, beyond the reservoir and valley of Powder-Mill Branch. It was deemed necessary to give the position, thus isolated, considerable strength, and the site being unfavorable to the rapid creation of a strong position by a single large work, three smaller ones were erected, which, a year later, were united into one, and called Fort Sumner.

The first idea as to defensive works beyond the Anacostia were to fortify the debouches from the bridges and the heights overlooking the Navy Yard. With that object Fort Stanton was begun early in September. A further examination of the remarkable ridge between the Anacostia and Oxen Run showed clearly that, to protect the Navy Yard and Arsenal from cannonade, it was necessary to occupy an extent of six miles from Fort Greble to Fort Meigs. Forts Greble and Carroll were begun in the latter part of September and Fort Mahan near Bennings' Bridge, about the same time. The latter work commanded the road leading along the margin of Anacostia from Bladensburg and served as an advanced tet-de-pont to the bridge just named. Fort Meigs, occupying the extreme point of the ridge from which artillery fire might be brought to bear upon the Capitol or Navy Yard, was begun somewhat later in the season, as were also Forts DuPont, Davis, Baker, Wagner, Ricketts, and Snyder. These were all well advanced to completion before the close of the year. At an early date, defensive measures had been taken at the Chain Bridge, consisting of a barricade immediately over the first pier from the Virginia side, with a movable staircase, by which the defenders could retreat over the flat below, leaving the bridge open to the fire of two mountain howitzers, placed immediately at its Maryland end, a battery on the bluff above ("Martin Scott") of one 8-inch sea-coast howitzer and two 35-pounders. As even this last battery was commanded by heights on the Virginia side, it was deemed proper to erect another called Vermont at a higher point, which should command the Virginia heights, and at the same time sweep the approaches of the enemy along the Maryland shore of the Potomac.

But the occupation of the Virginia shore at the Chain Bridge was essential to the future operations of our army in Virginia, to the prestige of our arms, and incidentally important to the defense of Washington. It was only delayed until our force was sufficient to authorize its accomplishment. General W.F. Smith's Division crossed the bridge on the night of September 24, and Forts Ethan Allen and Marcy were immediately begun and speedily finished.

Comprised in the foregoing categories there are twenty-three forts south of the Potomac, fourteen and three batteries between the Potomac and Anacostia and eleven forts beyond the Anacostia, making forty-eight forts in all. These works varied in size, from Forts Runyon, Lyon and Marcy, of which the perimeters were 1,500, 939, and 736 yards, to Forts Bennett, Haggerty, and Saratoga, with perimeters of 146, 128, and 154 yards. The greater portion of them were enclosed works of earth, though many, as Forts Craig, Tillinghast, Scott, south of the Potomac, and Forts Saratoga and Gaines on the north were lunettes, with stockaded gorges. The armament was mainly made up of 24 and 32 pounders, on sea coast carriages, with a limited proportion of 24-pounder siege guns, rifled Parrott guns, and guns on field carriages of light caliber. Magazines were provided for 100 rounds of ammunition, and some few of the more important works (Fort Lyon, Worth and Ward) had a considerable extent of bomb-proof cover, in which about one-third of the garrisons might comfortably sleep and nearly all take temporary shelter.

Such were the defenses of Washington at the beginning of the year 1862. But public opinion was at this period undergoing another fluctuation. The fortifications, lightly regarded before the Manassas campaign, were after that disaster eagerly demanded and their progressive advancement toward defensibility watched with anxiety. When, under General McClellan's high organizing abilities, a large, perfectly-appointed, and tolerably well-disciplined army grew into existence, and when the brilliant success of Dupont at Port Royal, and of Thomas and Grant in the West, had encouraged the belief that a "sharp and decisive" campaign would terminate the war, they once more fell into disrepute. The act of Congress appropriating money for completing the

defenses of Washington¹, provided that no part of the sum should be applied to any work "hereafter to be commenced." From the description which has been given, it will be easily recognized that, whatever assistance the works then existing might be able to afford to an army defending Washington, they were far from constituting, especially on the north of the Potomac, a thoroughly-fortified line. Nor could they, so loose were their connections, effectually repel raids. Detached earthworks, with wide intervals and no connecting lines or obstacles, could only constitute "points d' appui" for an army giving battle to an invader--not a fortified place which a garrison could defend against greatly superior force. Such as they were however, there can be no doubt of their important influence in protecting Washington, and in saving us from further calamities, after the failure of General McClellan's Campaign against Richmond, and the retreat of General Pope upon Washington.

The peril in which the Capital was placed in the months of August and September, 1862, by the events just alluded to, revealed the inadequacy of existing defenses and demonstrated the necessity of further development. The writer, who at this period had been assigned to the command of the place, and with it had resumed the engineering charge, was, under such circumstances, far more vividly impressed with the deficiencies and defects of the existing defenses than he could be when a few months earlier he had relinquished the charge of a work which had been regarded by Congress as already carried further than necessary. Notwithstanding the recent legislation, the most energetic means were taken to increase the strength of the line, whether by the construction of new works or by the enlargement and improvement of old ones. Many of the latter, occupying sites of which the commanding character had prompted an early and hastily-executed occupation, were entirely too small. Such were Fort Stevens, Fort Slocum, Fort Ward. At other localities the proper occupation of the site required more or less extensive auxiliary constructions. Such were the sites of Forts Lyon, Sumner, Reno, Lincoln, Meigs, and others. Numerous gaps existed requiring the interpolation of new works. Ravines or depressions of surface, unseen from the works, intersected the line at various points or lay along its front, to control which numerous auxiliary batteries were necessary. Finally it was evident that, even with all such improvements, the defenses would yet remain only a system of "point d' appui" to a line of battle, unless they were connected by works which would cover the troops occupying the intermediate ground and offer some obstacle to the passage of the enemy. Besides the foregoing demands for new construction or further development, there was a necessity for repairing and even rebuilding much of the interior structure of the original works, and for providing nearly all of them with so much bomb-proof shelter as would protect their garrisons against a concentrated fire of artillery. Finally, a great change in the character and arrangement of the armament was urgently needed. The demand for field-guns for our armies had stripped our arsenals of them and compelled the substitution in these forts of large numbers of 24 and 32-pounders on barbette carriages. Such guns made a very improper armament. Not only were they too heavy and unmanageable, but so exposed that at close quarters they would be nearly unserviceable. To replace most of these as rapidly as possible by light guns on field carriages placed in embrasure, was deemed imperative, in doing which another expedient to enhance the efficiency of the artillery fire suggested itself. Along the extended belt of country on which the line was located were numerous points, either in the works themselves or within the lines, which overlooked the external approaches, and from which a flanking fire from heavy rifled guns to an extent of three or four miles could be obtained. Battery Cameron, near Georgetown, had already been built to answer such a purpose in relation to the Arlington lines. It was now proposed to mount rifled 100-pounders at intervals of two or three miles for the same object. An enemy attacking or approaching any part of the lines would not only have to contend with the artillery before him (which he might indeed, hope to silence),

1 - Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for completing the defenses of Washington: Provided, that all arrearages of debts incurred for the objects of this act shall be first paid out of this sum: And provided further, that no part of the sum hereby appropriated shall be expended in any work hereafter to be commenced.

but would be taken in flank by a distant fire of heavy projectiles, with which his own artillery could not contend.

Another object, quite independent of the original purposes of the defenses, suggested itself at this period as important, namely, the better defense of the river against naval approach, by the construction of water batteries.

The above-projected developments would, if carried out, involve an amount of labor and expenditure far exceeding what had originally been bestowed upon the works and they would necessarily require considerable time. With the sanction of the Sect of War, the late E.M. Stanton, who gave the most cordial and unqualified support to the efforts of the engineers, everything that it was practicable to undertake was begun at once, the Secretary assuming the responsibility of applying thereto moneys available for general purposes of the kind. It was obvious, however, that the expenditure would continue indefinitely and ultimately amount to a very large sum. In face of the recent formal prohibition of Congress to begin new works, it seemed desirable, in order to justify the Secretary in applying means at his command, or in calling upon Congress for further appropriations, that some other sanction than the irresponsible will of the chief engineer of the defenses should be obtained, not only for the course taken, but also for the judiciousness of the plans proposed for its execution. A commission consisting of Brevet Brigadier General J.G. Totten, Chief Engineer, United States Army; Brigadier General M.C. Meigs, Quartermaster General, United States Army, formerly of the United States Engineers; Brigadier General W.F. Barry, chief of artillery; Brigadier General J.G. Barnard, Chief Engineer Defenses of Washington; Brigadier General G.W. Cullum, United States Engineers, chief of staff to the General-in-Chief, was appointed by the Secretary of War, October 25, 1862, "to examine and report upon a plan of the present forts and sufficiency of the present system of defenses for the city." The commission devoted two months to the study and personal examination of the system. As no more authoritative exposition can be given, I shall quote from their report at some length:

"The system of works constituting what are called the defenses of Washington maybe divided into four groups:

FIRST. Those south of the Potomac, commencing with Fort Lyon below Alexandria, and terminating with Fort DeKalb opposite Georgetown.

SECOND. Those of the Chain Bridge.

THIRD. Those north of the Potomac, between that river and the Anacostia, commencing with Fort Sumner and terminating with Fort Lincoln.

FOURTH. Those south of the Eastern Branch, commencing with Fort Mahan, and terminating with Fort Greble, nearly opposite Alexandria.

The perimeter thus occupied, not counting the interval from Fort Greble to Fort Lyon, is about 33 miles, or including that, 37 miles.

In the first group are 23 field forts. In the second group two forts (Ethan Allen and Marcy) and three batteries for field guns. In the third are 18 forts, 4 batteries, permanently armed with heavy guns, besides about 14 batteries for field guns, some of which are of heavy profile, with stockaded gorges and magazines. In the fourth group are eleven forts, besides the armed battery connected with Fort Carroll. There are therefore in the whole system as it now exists (December, 1862), 53 forts and 22 batteries.

The total armament actually mounted in the different works, at the date of this report, is 643 guns and 75 mortars.

The total infantry garrisons required for their defense, computed at 2 men per yard of front perimeter, and 1 man per yard of rear perimeter, is about 25,000.

The total number of artillerymen required (to furnish three reliefs for each gun) is about 9,000. It is seldom necessary to keep the infantry supports attached to the works.

The artillerymen, whose training requires much time having learned the disposition of the armament, and computed the distances of the ground over which attacks may be looked for, and the ranges and service of their guns, should not be changed; they should remain permanently in the forts.

The 25,000 infantry should be encamped in such positions as may be most convenient to enable them, in case of alarm, to garrison the several works;

and a force of 3,000 cavalry should be available for outpost duty, to give notice of the approach of an enemy.

Whenever, an enemy is within striking distance of the Capital, able by a rapid march to attempt a coup-de-main, which might result in the temporary occupation of the city, the dispersion of the Government, and the destruction of the archives, all of which could be accomplished by a single day's possession, a covering army of not less than 25,000 men should be held in position ready to march to meet the attacking column.

Against more serious attacks from the main body of the enemy, the Capital must depend upon the concentration of its entire armies in Virginia or Maryland. They should precede or follow any movement of the enemy seriously threatening the Capital."

The various operations recommended by the commission, sanctioned by the Secretary of War, were prosecuted with great vigor during the early part of the year 1863. The new works recommended were entirely completed during that year, and ready indeed to render efficient service by the time the season of active field operations commenced. That on the spur behind Forts Cass and Woodbury--Fort Whipple--and that at the Red House, Fort C.F. Smith, became the most perfect and beautiful specimens of what may be called "semi-permanent" field works. So also was Fort Foote, designed as a water battery in conjunction with Battery Rodgers.

The operations of 1864 (during the latter half of the year) under charge of Lt. Colonel B.S. Alexander, whose aid during their whole progress had been of great value to the chief engineer, were confined mainly to the repairing, strengthening, and perfecting existing works. An exception to the above statement is to be found in the beginning of a large fort, styled Fort McPherson (but never completed), behind Fort Craig, to fill the gap in the second line, between Forts Whipple and Albany, and of three small works over the Anacostia, between Forts Mahan and Meigs.

Thus, from a few isolated works covering bridges or commanding a few especially important points, was developed a connected system of fortification by which every prominent point, at intervals of 800 to 1,000 yards, was occupied by an inclosed field-fort, every important approach or depression of ground, unseen from the forts, swept by a battery for field-guns and the whole connected by rifle-trenches which were in fact lines of infantry parapet, furnishing emplacement for two ranks of men and affording covered communication along the line, while roads were opened wherever necessary, so that troops and artillery could be moved rapidly from one point of the immense periphery to another, or under cover, from point to point along the line.

The woods which prevailed along many parts of the line were cleared for a mile or two in front of the works the counterscarps of which were surrounded by abattis. Bomb-proofs were provided in nearly all of the forts; all guns not solely intended for distant fire, placed in embrasure and well traversed; secure and well-ventilated magazines ample to contain 100 rounds per gun, constructed; the original crude structures, built after design given in text-books for "field fortifications," replaced by others, on plans experience developed, or which the increased powers of modern artillery made necessary. All commanding points on which an enemy would be likely to concentrate artillery to overpower that of one or more of our forts or batteries were subjected not only to the fires, direct and cross, of many points along the line, but also from heavy rifled guns from distant points unattainable by the enemy's field guns. With all these developments the lines certainly approximated to the maximum degree of strength which can be attained from unrevetted earth-works. When in July, 1864, Early appeared before Washington, all the artillery regiments which had constituted the garrisons of the works and who were experienced in the use of the artillery, had been withdrawn and their places mainly filled by a few regiments of "one hundred days men", just mustered into the service. The advantage, under these circumstances, of established lines of infantry parapet, and prepared emplacements for field guns, can hardly be overestimated. Bodies of hastily organized men, such as teamsters, quartermasters' men, citizen volunteers, etc., sent out to the lines, could hardly go amiss. Under other circumstances it would have been almost impossible speedily to have got them into any proper position and to have them kept in it. With equal facility the movable batteries of field guns found, without a moments' delay, their appropriate places where, covered by the enemy's fire, they occupied the very best positions which the topography afforded.

At the termination of the war in April, 1865, the "defenses of Washington" consisted of 68 enclosed forts and batteries having an aggregate perimeter of 22,800 yards (13 miles) and emplacements for 1,120 guns, 807 of which and 98 mortars were actually mounted; of 93 unarmed batteries for field guns having 401 emplacements; and of 35,711 yards (20 miles) of rifle trenches, and 3 block houses. Thirty-two miles of military roads, besides the existing roads of the District and the avenues of Washington, served as the means of communication from the interior to the defensive lines, and from point to point thereof. The entire circuit, including the distance across the Potomac from Fort Greble to Fort Lyon (four miles), was thirty-seven miles.

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FORT STEVENS, WHERE LINCOLN WAS UNDER FIRE

by

William Van Zandt Cox

Three times during the Civil War Washington was in grave peril and three times it was saved to the Union. The first was at the beginning of hostilities when the militia of the District of Columbia came to the rescue of the small body of marines and artillery, before the arrival in the Capital of the troops from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, and other Northern States. The second was immediately after the battle of Bull Run, when it could have been captured by the Confederates had they not been more demoralized by victory than the Federals by defeat. The third was in July, 1864, when General Early made his campaign against Washington.

The important battle at Monocacy, Maryland, on July 9, 1864, was the first day's fight to save the Nation's Capital, and General Early's army was victorious. So unexpected and so rapid were the Confederate general's movements that he was in sight of the dome of the Capitol before his cleverly conceived plans were fully realized. When the roar of Early's guns was heard and the telegraph announced that he had defeated Lew Wallace at Monocacy Bridge, the heart of the North quivered with emotion as it contemplated the defenselessness of Washington, stripped of men and guns for the campaign against Richmond.

This daring campaign against Washington and its skillful execution caused a rude awakening in the North, impatiently waiting for Grant to take Richmond. Both Washington and Baltimore were in a state of panic, while gold went up to the highest point. The capture of Washington meant diplomatic complications of a most serious nature, with foreign powers awaiting only for a plausible pretext for dismemberment. Never was a prize more tempting to the Confederates. Never was there a time when more was at stake for the Union.

"Wallace defeated at Monocacy after a stubborn fight," were the words contained in the message received at the War Department, but that stubborn fight was as valuable as a victory for the Union, for a day's time had been gained, so necessary for the safety of the Capital.

During those exciting days there was one calm man, and he was none other than President Lincoln. He was then living at the Soldiers' Home, a mile and a quarter from Fort Stevens, and in addition to his herculean duties he daily visited the camps, forts, and hospitals. He seemed devoid of fear and his chief concern was at that time the capture of Early's army. His telegram to Governor Swann of Maryland is characteristic: "Let us be vigilant but keep cool."

General C.C. Augur was in command of the Department of Washington. General Alexander McD. McCook had charge of the northern line of troops and fortifications. The latter was ordered to establish a camp on Piney Branch creek, but the news from the front was so disquieting that he proceeded to Fort Stevens, five miles north of Pennsylvania Avenue on the Seventh Street pike, and took command of a line he had never before seen. Every man was utilized for defense. The hospitals were drawn on for convalescents, the Quartermaster's Department for employes, the National Guard of Ohio, the District of Columbia militia, the Veteran Reserves, and the few unassigned regular

detachments and unmounted cavalry, sailors, firemen, and citizens were in the trenches and on the picket line.

When General Grant realized the gravity of the situation, and that Hunter could render no assistance, he first thought of returning from Petersburg to Washington to take command in person. On reflection, however, he decided to send the Sixth Corps, commanded by General Horatio G. Wright.

The Twenty-fifth New York Cavalry which left City Point, Virginia, on July 7, seems to have been the first regiment to reach Washington from the James and went into camp about midnight of July 10, near Fort Stevens. On the same day the First and Second Divisions of the Sixth Corps left City Point for Washington. A few hours later General W.H. Emory, with a part of the Nineteenth Corps, just returned from New Orleans to join Grant, left Fortress Monroe for Washington without disembarking from their ocean transports.

What a picture!....Early with his fighting legions advancing on the Capital from the North, while fleets bearing the veterans of the Sixth and Nineteenth Corps were on their way from the James River and the Gulf of Mexico to save the Capital they loved so well. North and South looked on with bated breath and wondered which, in this race of armies, would reach Washington first.

On the morning of July 11, General Early left his camp near Rockville, McCausland taking the Georgetown pike; the infantry preceded and flanked by cavalry taking the Seventh Street pike. Major Frye, of Lowell's cavalry, met the enemy's cavalry skirmishers a short distance beyond the picket line near the old Stone Tavern before noon and forced them back by and on their own reserves. He, in turn, was driven back by the enemy, who fired a few shots from a battery of light artillery.

About 11 o'clock, the signal officer, at Fort Reno, observed clouds of dust and army wagons moving up the Seventh Street pike. About the same time a message from Captain Berry, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, said that the enemy with artillery, cavalry, and infantry was moving in the direction of Silver Spring. General McCook ordered the picket line to contest the ground and to retire slowly on approach of the enemy until within range of the guns of Forts Stevens, Slocum, and DeRussy.

Shortly after noon, riding in advance with Rodes, whose division, consisting of Given's and Cox's North Carolinians, Crook's Georgians, and Battle's Alabamians, in the van, General Early came, as he says, in full view of Fort Stevens, and found it feebly manned, as had been reported to him. Smith, of Imboden's Cavalry, according to Early drove a small body of Union cavalry before him into the works.

No time could be lost, and he ordered the tired and dusty veterans to move forward; but before his order could be executed, to his everlasting regret, he saw trained and disciplined troops move out of the works, deploy, and form a skirmish line. Undismayed and undaunted, the tireless Early and his brave men continued to advance, but with greater caution than before. It was too late! The hopes and ambitions of only an hour ago could never be realized. Washington was saved to the Union! The Sixth Corps had arrived! Never was there a more opportune movement, never was there a more welcome arrival. Down the historic James, up the historic Potomac, came the Sixth Corps. Mr Lincoln met them at the Seventh Street Wharf and well they cheered him! With what alacrity both officers and men marched to reinforce the brave defenders on the firing line! Dr. George Stevens, the historian of the Sixth Army Corps says:

"We marched up Seventh Street, meeting on our way many old friends, and hearing people who crowded on the sidewalks, exclaiming, 'It is the old Sixth Corps'---'These men are the men who took Mayre's Heights'---'The danger is over now.' Washington, an hour before, was in a panic; but as the people saw the veterans wearing the badge of the Greek cross marching through their streets, the excitement subsided and confidence prevailed.

Thus we made our way to the north of the city, the sound of cannonading in our front stimulating and hastening the steps of the men.

Families with a few of their choicest articles of household furniture loaded into wagons, were hastening to the city, reporting that their houses were burned, or that they had made their escape, leaving the greater part of their goods to the mercy of the Rebels. General Frank Wheaton in his report says:

"While on the march to Fort Stevens, was passed by General Wright, and received his verbal instructions to mass near Crystal Spring in the neighbor-

hood of Fort Stevens, where we arrived at 4 o'clock in the afternoon (At 4 PM, General Wright wired General Augur from Fort Stevens: The head of my column has nearly reached the front.)

At 5 P.M., the force outside of Fort Stevens, consisting of portions of the Veteran Reserve Corps, War Department clerks, and citizen volunteers, was driven in toward the fort by a portion of the enemy's forces under Early. At the same time I was ordered to move 500 men of my brigade out to recover the line held in the afternoon. This was successfully accomplished before 7 o'clock by the Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers, Col. J. F. Bailler; the One Hundred and Second Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers, Major Thomas McLaughlin; and the One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, Captain James McGregor, which deployed as skirmishers and drove the enemy's advance back to their main lines. The position was strengthened at dark by the Ninety-third Pennsylvania Volunteer Veterans, Lieutenant Colonel J.S. Long, and the Sixty-second New York Veteran Volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel T.B. Hamilton, and extended from a point opposite the center of the line between Forts Stevens and Reno to the west and a point opposite Fort Slocum on the east, a distance of about two miles. Skirmishing continued through the night.

In vain all the afternoon of July 11 Early tried to find a weak spot in the lines, but he was met everywhere by the fire of fort guns and musketry. The works he reported exceedingly strong, consisting of what appeared to be inclosed forts for heavy artillery, with a tier of lower works in front of each, pierced for an immense number of guns, wholly connected by curtains, with ditches in front and strengthened by palisades and abattis. The timber had been felled within cannon range all around and left on the ground, making a formidable obstacle, and every possible approach was raked by artillery. On the right was Rock Creek, running through a deep ravine, which had been rendered impassable by the felling of timber on each side, and beyond were the works on the Georgetown pike, which had been reported to be the strongest of all. On the left as far as the eye could reach the works appeared to be of the same impregnable character.

Early then held a consultation with his generals, Breckenridge, Rodes, Ramseur, and Gordon, pointing out the necessity of action before the fords and mountain passes were closed against them, and in concluding, he announced his purpose of making an assault at daylight. When on examining the works on the morning of July 12, General Early saw the parapets lined with troops, (It is said that General Meigs instructed his quartermaster's soldiers to make themselves as conspicuous as possible on the parapets) he says that he then determined to abandon the idea of capturing Washington.

A distinguished writer who was Brightwood during the battle says:

"July 12 came bright and glorious. The First Brigade of our Second Division and our sharpshooters were on the picket in front of Fort Stevens, from the parapet of which could be seen the lines of Rebel skirmishers, from whose rifles the white puffs of smoke rose as they discharged their pieces at our pickets. The valley beyond presented a scene of surpassing loveliness, with the rich green meadows, its fields of waving corn, its orchards and its groves.

The principal force of the enemy seemed to be in front of Fort Stevens; there it was determined to give them battle.

About 5 o'clock in the afternoon General Wright ordered General Wheaton to drive back the Confederate skirmish line and occupy the wooded points near the road, which, being so near our intrenchments, gave the enemy advantage of position; thereupon, Colonel Bidwell was instructed to have the Third Brigade move outside of the fort and form, under cover of a ravine and woods (south-east of Battle Ground Cemetery) in two lines directly in the rear of the First Brigade, on the skirmish line. Colonel Bidwell was also directed to select three of his best regiments to assist in the assault, the remaining portion of the brigade to be held to support the general movement.

According to General Wheaton: The Seventh Maine, the Forty-third New York, and Forty-ninth New York were skillfully placed in position near the skirmish line under the direction of Colonel Bidwell without the enemy discovering the movement.

A preconcerted signal was made by a staff officer, from Fort Stevens, when these regiments were in position, at which time the batteries from Fort Stevens and Slocum

opened fire upon certain points, strongly held by the enemy. The assaulting regiments then dashed forward, surprising and hotly engaging the enemy, who was found to be much stronger than supposed. It became necessary to deploy immediately the three remaining regiments-- the 77th New York, the 22 New York, and the 61st Pennsylvania Volunteers--Bidwell's Brigade, on the right of those he had already in the action, and the picket reserve of 150 men from the 102nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, and a detachment of 80 men from the Vermont Brigade to support the skirmish line immediately on the right and left of the pike. The enemy's stubborn resistance showed that a farther advance than already made would require more troops, and two regiments were sent for. Before their arrival, however, (the 37th Massachusetts Volunteers and 2nd Rhode Island), an aide-de-camp from General Wright directed me not to attempt more than holding the position gained, as the object of the attack had been accomplished and the important points captured and held.

This whole attack was as gallant as it was successful, and the troops never evinced more energy or determination. The losses were very severe, the brave Colonel Bidwell losing many of his most valuable regimental commanders. The last shot was fired about 10 o'clock and the remainder of the night was occupied in strengthening the position, burying the dead, caring for the wounded, and relieving the skirmish line which had been two days in front constantly under fire--by troops of the 2nd Vermont Brigade. Dr. Stevens describes the attack in these words:

'The heavy ordnance in the fort sent volley after volley of thirty-two pound shells howling over the heads of our men into the midst of the Rebels, and through the (Carberry) house where so many of them had found shelter, and then at the command of 'Sedgwick's Man of Iron,' the brave fellows started eagerly forward. They reached and passed the skirmishers, and the white puffs of smoke and the sharp cracks of their rifles became more and more frequent; first the rattle of an active skirmish and then the continuous roar of a musketry battle.

In magnificent order and with light steps they ran forward up the ascent, through the orchard, through the little grove on the right, over the fence rail, up to the road making straight for the objective point, the frame house (Carberry) in front. The Rebels at first stood their ground, then gave way before the impetuous charge, and though forced to seek safety in flight, turned and poured their volleys into the ranks of the pursuers. Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson, commanding the 49th New York, a brave man, who had never shrunk from danger, and who had shared all the various fortunes of the Brigade since its organization, fell mortally wounded. Colonel Vischer of the 43rd New York, who had but lately succeeded the beloved Wilson, was killed. Major James P. Jones, commanding the 7th Maine, was also among the slain; and Major Crosby, commanding the 61st Pennsylvania, who had just recovered from a bad wound which he had received in the Wilderness, was taken to the hospital, where the surgeon removed his left arm from the shoulder. Colonel W.B. Franch, of the 77th New York, was injured. The commanding officer of every regiment in the Brigade was either killed or wounded.

The fight had lasted but a few minutes, when the stream of bleeding, mangled ones began to come to the rear. Men leaning upon the shoulders of comrades, or borne painfully on stretchers, the pallor of their countenances rendered more ghastly by the thick dust which settled upon them, were brought into the hospitals by scores, where the medical officers, ever active in administering relief to their companions, were hard at work binding up wounds, administering stimulants, coffee, and food, or resorting to the hard necessity of amputation.

At the summit of the ascent, the Confederates were strengthened by their second line of battle, and here they made a stout resistance; but even this position they were forced to abandon in haste; and as darkness closed in upon the scene our men were left as victors in possession of the ground, lately occupied by the Rebels, having driven their adversaries more than a mile.

The Vermont Brigade now came to the relief of the boys who had so gallantly won the field, and the Third Brigade returned at midnight to the bivouac it had left in the morning. But not all returned. Many of those brave men who went with such alacrity into the battle had fallen to rise no more, in the orchard, in the road, about the frame house, and upon the summit where the Rebels had made so determined a resistance, their forms were stretched upon the green sward and upon the dusty road, stiff and cold. Many more had come to the hospital severely injured, maimed for life, or mortally wounded.

The little brigade, numbering only a thousand men when it went into action, had lost two hundred and fifty of its number. We gathered our dead comrades from the field where they had fallen and gave them the rude burial of the soldier on the common near Fort Stevens. No officer of state, no lady of wealth, no citizen of Washington was there, but we laid them in their graves within sight of the Capitol, without coffins, with only their gory garments and their blankets around them. With the rude tenderness of soldiers, we covered them in the earth, and marked their names with our pencils on the little headboards of pine, and turned sadly away to other scenes.

On an eminence near the Confederate advance was John C. Breckinridge, the candidate receiving the votes of the seceding States for President, expecting to enter the Capital with the Army of Northern Virginia.

On the parapet of Fort Stevens, by the side of General Wright, amid the whizzing bullets, stood the successful candidate in that great political struggle, Abraham Lincoln, watching with the 'grave and pensive countenance,' the progress of the battle.

A few years ago, in company with the old commander of the Sixth Corps, I stood upon that same parapet. After contemplating the surroundings General Wright said:

'Here on the top of this parapet between this old embrasure and that, is the place where President Lincoln stood witnessing the fight; there, by his side, a surgeon was wounded by a minie ball.'

I entreated the President not to expose his life to the bullets of the enemy; but he seemed oblivious to his surroundings; finally, when I found that my entreaties failed to make any impression on him, I said, 'Mr. President, I know you are commander of the armies of the United States, but I am in command here, and as you are not safe where you are standing, I order you to come down.' Mr. Lincoln looked at me and smiled, and then, more in consideration of my earnestness than from inclination, stepped down and took position behind the parapet. Even then he would persist in standing up and exposing his tall form.'

That old parapet, identified by General Horatio G. Wright, stands today, and for history's sake should be preserved in memory of Lincoln as a tribute to the bravery of the American soldier--a united North and South.

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THE PART TAKEN BY THE NAVAL FORCES IN THE DEFENSE OF WASHINGTON DURING THE CIVIL WAR

by

Richard Wainwright, Commander U.S. Navy
and Superintendent Naval Academy

The first order issued to the Naval Forces for the protection of Washington was dated January 5, 1861, signed by Isaac Toucey, Secretary of the Navy, and addressed to Colonel John Harris, Commandant, Marine Corps, directing that a force of Marines be sent to Fort Washington, down the Potomac, for the protection of public property. Forty men, commanded by Captain A.S. Taylor, U.S. Marine Corps, were sent in obedience to this order.

Under pressure from Commander J.A. Dahlgren, Commodore Franklin Buchanan, Commandant of the Washington Yard, on February 1, issued an order for the defense of the yard and prescribing the necessary organization and points for assembling. On April 22, Commodore Buchanan resigned and soon after joining the Confederate Navy. Commander Dahlgren now became commandant and all available means for defense were put in shape. On April 19, the PAWNEE, Commander Rowan arrived off the Washington Arsenal and on the following day the packet ANACOSTIA was armed and sent, under the command of Lieutenant Fillebrown, down the Potomac to Kettle Bottom Shoals, to prevent obstructions being placed in the river. The MOUNT VERNON having been seized by the army

at Alexandria, was armed for service. The Steamer POCAHONTAS, Commander J. P. Gillis, arrived from New York and was ordered to cruise down the river as far as the "White House." A number of other small river steamers and tugs were armed at this time. They were employed in patrolling the river, in preserving and placing the aids of navigation, and overhauling all boats on the river for arms, etc. Among these armed boats were the POWHATAN, Lieutenant Sproston commanding; the PHILADELPHIA, Lieutenant G.N. Morris and afterwards Lieutenant W.N. Jeffers, commanding; the Robert Leslie, Lieutenant J.H. Russell, commanding; and the BALTIMORE, Lieutenant W.C. West, commanding.

Early in May Commander J.H. Ward was assigned to the charge of the Potomac flotilla. He had suggested the idea to the Secretary of the Navy and brought several light draft boats from New York to form a part of the flotilla. The first Confederate battery on the Potomac was discovered at Aquia Creek on May 14 by Lieutenant Sproston, and was afterwards reported by several of the patrolling boats.

On May 24, all the steamers, lighters, and boats at the Navy Yard were used to convey the New York Regiment of Zouaves (Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves) from Giesboro Point to Alexandria. It was immediately after this landing that Colonel Ellsworth was murdered.

On May 31, Commander Ward with the THOMAS FREEBORN, the ANACOSTIA, and the RESOLUTE, of the Potomac Flotilla, attacked the batteries at Aquia Creek. On the following day, the bombardment ended without injury to either side. The shore batteries were silenced only to break out again, on the cessation of firing from the vessels permitting the men to leave their protection.

On June 23, Commander Ward applied for the aid of about two hundred soldiers to assist him in the attack upon some Confederate troops at Mathias Point. These troops could not be spared, and on June 27 with the aid of boat's crew from the PAWNEE, commanded by Lieutenant Chaplin, he landed the men from the FREEBORN and attacked the Confederate troops at Mathias Point, with the aid of the guns of the FREEBORN. The landing party was repulsed, and Captain Ward was killed while sighting the bow gun of his own vessel. Commander T.T. Craven was then ordered to command the Potomac Flotilla.

In the latter part of July, Lieutenant Parker, with one hundred and ten seamen and forty marines, was sent to Fort Ellsworth beyond Alexandria. They laid the platforms and mounted a naval battery of three 9-inch guns and five howitzers. This was a joint occupancy with the Army, Fort Ellsworth being at the time the fort nearest the Confederate lines, Fort Munson being their opposing fort. Lieutenant Parker was afterwards relieved, and Commander R. Wainwright was sent in command of a detachment of three hundred seamen and four officers to man this Fort. Afterwards a guard of thirty marines was added to the force, and manned a small water battery erected near the Fort. The entire force was withdrawn in November.

Commander Charles Wilkes was ordered to command the Potomac Flotilla in August, 1862. He was succeeded in September of the same year by Commodore Andrew A. Harwood, who was relieved in December, 1863, by Commander Foxhall A. Parker. After November, 1861, the work of the Navy in the defense of Washington was confined to patrolling the Potomac River. On several occasions, on the request of the General in command of the Army of the Potomac, the Commander of the flotilla was specially cautioned to prevent the passage of the Potomac River by the Confederate Army. They gradually obtained possession of the boats on the river. At times they were attacked by the Confederates from commanding positions on shore, but there were no other engagements on the river of sufficient importance to be noted.

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1
The Story of Lincoln on the Battle
Field as told by Genl J. W. Latta
How Lincoln was under fire at
the battle of Fort Stevens in Summer
1864 This was the first time a
Presd of the United States had been
under fire on a Battle field during
his term of office

Jubal Early had been despatched by
Lee to raid Washington and seize
the capitol while the army of
the Potomac and the Army of North
Virginia faced another at Petersburg
The Sixth Corps of the Army of the
Potomac under Genl Morton Wright
had been rushed to the defense
of Washington. The Confederates were
close to the lines of Fort Stevens their
sharpshooters already within the
walls of Fort Stevens Genl Blair a half
a mile away when Lincoln appeared
on the firing line.

"Go back. Genl Wright called out
"You must leave this place at
once Mr President. This no place
for you. You have no business here

2 "I have just as much business here as you have" Lincoln is said to have
with a smile.

"Oh no" Wright answered. It is
my business to be here that is what
I am paid for
"So Am I said" said Lincoln
Just then a ball struck an Asst
Surgeon G. B. V. A. Crawford of the
Army who was on duty nearby
and seeing the Surgeon fall close
to the President. No time was lost
by the officers in compelling Lincoln
to retreat.

Lincoln in
the Battle of
Gettysburg

Just by name, I have Ray

573 S. Glen, St

Westwood Mrs.

RECALLS LINCOLN'S PERIL

Veteran Says President Exposed to Marksmen.

MINNEAPOLIS. (UP). President Lincoln's habit of making unannounced visits to the union trenches during the war between the states almost cost him his life, one of the men who fought under "Honest Abe" recalled. On one such visit to fraternize with union troops, the president was a perfect target for rebel sharpshooters, said L. E. Carpenter, 84, Civil war veteran.

"It was in the Potomac campaign, in 1864, along about July 1," Carpenter related. "We were in the breastworks at City Point when Lincoln came out on an inspection tour. I was on picket duty. As the sun was going down, a figure came shambling along the breastworks, outlined against the light. It was topped with a plug hat. A long coat swept nearly to the ankles. The hands swung loosely.

"The fellow was fully exposed. Rebel trenches, the advance picket lines, were only twenty yards away. Somebody hollered 'Tell him to get down.' Then the zing-g-g-g of a few bullets. A couple of confederate pickets were sniping at him. Astounded, the man jumped into the breastworks. 'Why, it's the president,' someone exclaimed. That was the first we knew who it was.

"He sat down with us, a little knot of a dozen or so, and plunked his back up against a log. He told a lot of stories. They were awfully funny. When the coffee man came along, we asked if he wanted something to eat. He wasn't hungry, but he drank coffee with us out of tin cups. He talked lots about the rebels and about the

union and slavery. When he left, he said, 'Boys, hold up the stars and stripes.' That was the last we saw of him there."

WOULD MARK WHERE LINCOLN FACED FIRE

Next Congress to Be Asked to
Preserve Site Where Rebels
Shelled President.

801 Albee Building,
Buffalo Evening News Bureau.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Steps will be taken at the beginning of the next congress to insure the preservation of Fort Stevens in the northern part of Washington where President Lincoln stood under fire in the Civil war. Efforts made during the last congress in this direction were unavailing.

Fort Stevens was erected early in the Civil war and guarded the Seventh street road entrance to Washington. General Early appeared before it July 11, 1864, with an army of nearly 20,000. The next day Bidwell's brigade marched out and drove the Confederates from their position.

President Lincoln stood on the works of this fort under fire during the encounter. According to the committee report, he was "apparently unconscious of the danger," watching with grave and passive countenance the progress of the battle, amidst the whizzing of bullets of the sharpshooters until an officer fell mortally wounded within three feet of him.

This, the only instance where a President of the United States was under fire in a battle, making the site of great historic value, according to Representative Cook, Democrat, Indiana, who urged congress to preserve the site.

Mr. Cook, in a resolution, asked that the site be made into a military park. Secretary of War Weeks, however, has declared against the establishment of any more military parks for the time being and recommended that the spot be made an historic landmark similar to Fort Wood, N. Y.



*I have been thinking of you a great deal lately and hope you are
well. I have been very busy lately, but I have been able to
take a few moments to write you a few lines. I hope you are
well and happy.*

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FORT STEVENS

DRAWER 13

WASHINGTON IN GENERAL

